

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1969

WITH THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND THE ENGINEER & SURVEYOR ATTACHED.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1969.

The Rural District of Depwade covers 79,742 acres and had an estimated mid-year population of 18,610, an increase of 270 persons over the previous year.

Fortunately, and also it should be noted, largely due to the excellent services executed by the Council's staff, no great public health calamity overtook us during the year under review. However, as 100% efficiency is never achieved in any form of human enterprise, the small percentage of error which seems inevitable could possibly cause more disaster in the field of Public Health than any other every day enterprise. In this respect the number of cases of typhoid contracted overseas and returning to this country to be diagnosed and treated immediately springs to mind. The comparatively long delay between being infected by disease producing agents and the evidence of their ill effects appearing could equally well apply to many other dangerous infections common in other countries but practically unknown for many years in the U.K. The ever increasing volume of speedy long distance travel would appear to make their importation into this country inevitable.

Typhoid is spread through the agency of food and drink from the bowels of an infected person to innocent consumers. Perhaps the weakest link in the chain of transmission is that the culprit may feel and appear quite healthy. If we now turn to table 14 - Notifications of Infectious Diseases, without diseases attributable to infections of the bowel (dysentery and food poisoning) the numbers of infections notified would be far less. If we add to this fact that one of the commonest complaints encountered is diarrhoea a very large percentage of which are undoubtedly due to infected food but never notified, it will be appreciated how far we still have to go before preventive methods are fully effective.

One of the greatest problems in present day Public Health is to know how to strengthen these weak links of control so that no break down can or will occur.

The two greatest defences of public health control, clean water supply and efficient sewage disposal have their own weak links and are not yet universal throughout the country. Another all important public health control, namely refuse disposal constantly threatens to be overwhelmed by public demand. Even were this to come about the consequences would be nothing compared with the flood tide of uncontrolled industrial waste which is looming up in the rapidly advancing future.

We in the Public Health Department make constant endeavours towards the solution and improvement of all these problems. This, in one respect, is an endeavour to by-pass the factor of the weakness of human nature so that the human race is spared what would be the natural consequences of its own ineptitude.

Far from satisfactory in my experience are some aspects of food handling. Not only is the washing of hands too often haphazard (and how many handling cold cooked meats etc. for public consumption bother to scrub their fingernails regularly?) but also raw meat potentially contaminated with disease carrying germs which would normally be rendered harmless in cooking are allowed to contaminate preparation tables of cooked food ready for consumption. Also, it should be added, they are sometimes not cooked sufficiently to kill off bacteria which may be lurking deep down. The faulty defrosting and cooking of chickens is a well recognised source of bowel infection.

All food handlers in the public sector should have a first-class knowledge of food hygiene and a well developed conscience in applying it. Little can be done by officers of the Public Health Department except to see that necessary facilities are provided and give instruction for their use. The proper execution must come from within the industry itself and is an urgent necessity

On a happier theme it will be noted also from Table 14 that the number of notified cases of measles is very much diminished. It is perhaps too early to be certain that this is the consequence of the new vaccine, but it would seem reasonable to implicate its beneficial effect.

The small fall in the number of births for the year may be due to the use of the contraceptive pill. My own impression is that contraceptive guidance and help is not yet as easily available as it should be and the number of illegitimate births still occurring would seem to support this.

On my previous theme on the spread of infectious diseases from abroad it is a disquieting fact that only about half the children under 5 years of age are being notified as having been vaccinated against smallpox. It is possible that not all children being protected are being notified, but I suspect that all too many parents have been lulled into a sense of false security which we should do everything possible to dispel.

Dealing with the problem of protecting children's teeth by the fluoridation of water supplies has met opposition at local government level from two districts in Area 5. This has occurred in spite of irrefutable evidence of its beneficial effects and harmlessness from international experts covering a period of many years. One had hoped for more understanding of the problems of preventive medicine as far as the general public was concerned by the Public Health Committees of these Councils and greater faith in the integrity of expert advice at a National level.

Spurious arguments, all of which have been ably refuted by the experts, have nevertheless been supported eagerly, often by otherwise reasonable and intelligent people. It is disappointing that genuine evidence could not be differentiated from ingenious opposition, leading to a decision which would do great disservice to the promotion of public health unless it is reversed at the National level.

I am happy that the Public Health Committee demonstrated their mature responsibility by voting in favour of fluoridation of public water supplies.

A sample swabbing of chicken carcasses at the end of the production line and just before packing was performed at 3 monthly intervals throughout the year at the Harleston chicken factory.

This was thought advisable as an original survey by the Health Inspector and myself had shown that some carcasses were contaminated with Salmonella organisms after processing. As a result of this the flow of water in the washing tank was increased and chlorination of the washing water was not allowed to drop below 10 parts per million of chlorine. This adjustment to the routine treatment has proved entirely satisfactory so far and no further positive swabs from carcasses have been obtained. I am grateful for the wholehearted co-operation of the management and staff at the factory.

I would like to thank the chairman and members of the Health Committee for their never failing interest and constructive support in all matters appertaining to the health of the District.

It also gives me great pleasure to commend the Health Inspector and members of his staff for their excellent work and the happy relationship they have maintained with me throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R. D. Harland

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Norwich,
NOR 19S.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT - 1969

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,742
Estimated Resident Population	18,610
Rateable Value	£ 461,945
Sum. produced by a Penny Rate	£ 1,807

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	130	133	263
Illegitimate	8	5	13
Totals	138	138	276

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population = 14.8

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births = 7.0

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	138	138	276
Still	2	-	2

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	4	6

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total - 21.7 (per 1,000 live births)
 Legitimate - 22.8 (per 1,000 legitimate births)
 Illegitimate - 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

- (b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births) = 10.9

- (c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 live births) = 10.9

- (d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 18.1

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 8 Females - 5 Total - 13 (5% of total live births).

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 0.0

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
117	137	254

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population) - 13.6

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Gastro enteritis	-	1	1
Prematurity	-	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	1
Atelectasis		1	1
Totals	2	4	6

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(according to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	2	4	6
1 and under 5	-	1	1
5 and under 15	-	-	-
15 " " 25	1	1	2
25 " " 35	1	1	2
35 " " 45	1	1	2
45 " " 55	5	5	10
55 " " 65	15	10	25
65 " " 75	38	24	62
75 and over	54	90	144
Totals	117	137	254

Table 11. CAUSE OF DEATHS (Registrar General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1	1
Other Infective & Parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm - oesophagus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm - intestine	3	4	7
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm - prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	2	9	11
Other Endocrine etc. diseases		1	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.		2	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic heart disease	30	32	62
Other forms of heart disease	12	14	26
Cerebrovascular disease	19	21	40
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	8	11
Pneumonia	10	12	22
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	1	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	3	5
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	4	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	5	5
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc	1	2	3
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
Totals	117	137	254

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST 3 YEARS

	1967	1968	1969
Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)	(272)	(299)	(276)
Depwade R.D.	15.0	16.3	14.8
Area 5	16.3	16.1	14.9
England and Wales	17.2	16.9	16.3
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	(3)	(2)	(2)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	7.0	7.0
Area 5	9.4	9.6	12.7
England & Wales	14.8	14.0	13.0
Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)	(262)	(295)	(254)
Depwade R.D.	14.5	16.1	13.6
Area 5	12.5	13.3	11.8
England & Wales	11.2	11.9	13.6
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	(3)	(3)	(6)
Depwade R.D.	11.0	10.0	21.7
Area 5	14.6	13.0	14.6
England & Wales	18.3	18.0	18.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D.
2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Number of deaths	30	36	32	55	46	47	44
Percentage of total deaths	13	15	12	22	18	16	17

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1969	117	22	9	137	22	1
1968	123	22	10	172	25	1
1967	122	19	5	140	27	4
1966	143	34	9	107	19	3
1965	129	14	7	141	13	1
Totals	634	111	40	697	111	10

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(According to Age Groups - Depwade R.D.)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	-	-	3
Measles	-	6	16	-	1	23
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	2	2	5	-	3	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	-	-	2	3
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	2	1	-	1	4
Jaundice	-	-	-	1	4	5
Totals	3	13	23	1	12	52

Table 16. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS
- Depwade R.D.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever	7	8	11	15	3
Measles	46	156	102	365	23
Whooping Cough	23	14	6	4	1
Infective Jaundice	2	3	-	-	5
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	4	-	-	4
Food Poisoning	5	1	1	2	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	1	2	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	-	2	1
Tetanus	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	87	189	121	391	52

Information given by the County Medical Officer in respect of Vaccination and Immunisation carried out in Area 5 during the year is shown in the following Tables:

Table 17 VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the year resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table:

	Depwade R.D.	Area 5
Number of live births registered	276	1162
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	155	567
Percentage Vaccinated	56	57

Table 18. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - AREA 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
under 1	Age 1-4	Age 1-4	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
211	496	26	733	568	1282	1850

Table 19. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS - AREA 5

PRIMARY		BOOSTERS	
0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years	0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years
712	32	354	1799

Table 20. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH - AREA 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Under 5
206	488	2	490	642

Table 21. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS - AREA 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS	
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-14
213	504	71	788	568	1999

Table 22. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS - AREA 5

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations last year is recorded.

Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
825	20	778

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1969.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1969 ... my sixteenth and last as your Senior Public Health Inspector. It follows the same lines as reports for previous years and complies with the requirements of Circular 1/70 from the Department of Health & Social Security.

INTRODUCTION.

(a) General.

In retrospect, 1969 can only be described as another normal year of steady progress in our efforts to improve the general environmental health conditions of the population being served. After reading the report, I trust that members will agree that it shows a good year's working by the staff as the figures of the number of inspections, new dwellings erected and meat carcasses inspected clearly show that 'productivity' of the department appreciably increased.

(b) Staff.

It is somewhat unusual to be able to report that there were no changes in the staff during 1969. The two assistant Public Health Inspectors, Building Inspector and two clerks continued to give excellent service, for which I wish to express my appreciation and thanks. It is of interest to note that the clerical staff of this department has not been increased from two since I joined the Council staff 23 years ago, and in view of the considerable increase of work through the office since those days it is sometimes difficult to understand how we have managed to cope.

(c) New Legislation.

Two new Acts were placed on the Statute Book during 1969, affecting the work of the department:-

Housing Act 1969 - which (inter alia) brought about important changes in grants for the improvement and conversion of existing dwellings, and upon which I reported in detail to the Buildings and Plans Committee.

Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969 - which gave local authorities additional powers to deal with public health nuisances likely to re-occur.

Circulars and Statutory Instruments affecting our work were also issued from the various government departments on the following subjects:-

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food - Meat (Sterilisation), Milk and Dairies, Slaughter of Poultry, and Food (Control of Irradiation).

Department of Employment & Productivity - Offices, Shops & Railway Premises.

Ministry of Housing & Local Government - Building Regulations, Clean Air & Smoke Control, Housing Act 1969, Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969, Town & Country Planning.

(d) General Working of the Department.

The following table gives statistics of the types of visits made by the three Public Health Inspectors during the year. The overall figure shows an increase of 1091 over the 1968 figure, entirely due to additional work on building and planning control, but I am gratified to be able to point out that the number of visits on Public Health has not been reduced. Due to the fact that two of the slaughterhouses ceased to operate, the number of slaughterhouse visits is down on the previous year, but the time now taken up by this work increases almost daily due to increased throughput at the two wholesale premises. (The figures in brackets are those corresponding for the previous year).

				<u>Number of Visits or inspections</u>	<u>Percentage of total</u>
Slaughterhouses for meat inspection and other purposes	...	...	...	593 (654)	6.3 (6.9)
Housing (including Grants)	...	...	...	1515 (1628)	16.1 (19.8)
Public Health matters - nuisances, water supplies, infectious diseases etc.	...	...	...	1106 (1091)	11.7 (13.2)
Public Cleansing (including public conveniences)	...	...	...	620 (515)	6.6 (6.2)
Food premises	...	...	...	380 (372)	4.0 (4.5)
Other matters (places of employment, rodent control, petroleum storage and miscellaneous visits).	...	...	...	1074 (1022)	11.4 (12.4)
Building Regulation and Planning control.	...	...	...	4130 (3045)	43.9 (37.0)
				<u>9418 (8327)</u>	

Notes:- * This figure includes 93 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection by the private veterinary officers.

** In addition to this figure, the Building Inspector also carried out 5,601 inspections during the year (an increase of 1,409 - 33% over 1968)

PART 1 - H O U S I N G.

(a) General.

On April 1st. 1969, the total number of separate dwellings (including caravans) on the Valuation List was 7121 - an increase of 201 from the previous year. The Registrar General's mid-year population estimate was 18,610 - 270 more than the 1968 figure. Based on these figures, the average occupation index (persons per dwelling) for 1969 was 2.613 (compared with 2.65 for 1968).

(b) New Housing.

During the year 281 new dwellings were erected - 242 by private enterprise and 39 by the Council. Both the total and private dwellings are new high records. The following table shows how the 242 private dwellings sub-divide into types and the number of bedrooms provided in the various types:-

Type of dwellings	Number of bedrooms				Total
	One	Two	Three	Four	
Traditional two storey houses.	-	1	21	12	34
Chalet type	-	1	27	-	28
Traditional bungalows	1	70	102	2	175
Bricked/tiled prefab. bungalows	-	2	3	-	5
Total:	1	74	153	14	242

(c) Slum Clearance - Action under Housing Act 1957 on Unfit Dwellings.

57 dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as unfit and beyond economic reconditioning; following their inspection by the appointed Sub-Committee, action taken thereon (together with 2 brought forward from 1968) was as follows:-

(i)	Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	21
(ii)	Undertakings accepted not to relet vacant dwellings, or to repair within agreed time	...	...				7
(iii)	Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(iv)	Demolished without formal action having to be taken	...	...	...	...	...	2
(v)	Deferred for consideration at a later stage of slum clearance programme	...	...	...	...	...	13
(vi)	Carried forward for action in 1969	...	...	...	...		12
							59

During the year four demolition orders and one closing order were revoked and three statutory undertakings cancelled, the dwellings concerned having been reconditioned up to a satisfactory standard. 27 unfit dwellings were demolished (including eight not subject to statutory orders) and six unfit dwellings subject to orders were converted to other use and the orders cancelled.

The following table shows the situation at the end of the year regarding unfit dwellings subject to statutory orders still standing:-

	<u>Demolition Orders</u>	<u>Closing Orders</u>	<u>Undertakings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number occupied	69 (73)	11 (9)	8 (10)	88 (92)
Number vacant	92 (89)	28 (27)	80 (83)	200 (199)
	<u>161 (162)</u>	<u>39 (36)</u>	<u>88 (93)</u>	<u>288 (291)</u>

The figures in brackets are those corresponding for 1968.

The number of 'condemned' dwellings still occupied did not drop as much as I expected last year; there seems to be two reasons for this - quite a number of elderly tenants of these dwellings prefer to end their days in the cottage which has been their home for so many years, and the number vacated during the year is about offset by the number of new orders made.

In only eight cases was it found necessary to make written informal requests to owners to carry out housing repairs following receipt of complaints from the tenants, and none of these necessitated further formal action. I would, however, point out that all dwellings improved with grant aid (see next section) are brought up to a satisfactory standard of repair as a condition of making the grant.

One Certificate of Disrepair was issued under the Rent Act 1957.

(d) Improvement Grants.

The number of grants approved in 1969 was 100 - 22 fewer than in the previous year, but about an average figure for several years past. To date the increased maximum grants of both types does not appear to have made any appreciable difference to the number of applications being received, although it is obvious that the average amount of grant (particularly 'discretionary grants') will shortly rise rather steeply. To me it is still very surprising that some owners have to be literally coaxed to apply for a grant when they propose to install a bathroom etc. and some even refuse point blank to apply; I can only assume that this is due to an inherent distrust of an offer of 'something for nothing'.

The following table shows the types of dwellings being improved with the two forms of grant and again emphasizes that it is the owner/occupier who mainly applies. Contrary to the situation in urban areas, the proportion of privately rented dwellings in any rural area is low and decreasing all the time, hence their poor showing in our figures, but it is again gratifying to see that tied agricultural dwellings are receiving attention from some farmers - 21 in a year may not seem many, but every one is a better and healthier home for a farm worker and his family.

<u>Type of dwelling improved.</u>	<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>		<u>Standard Grants.</u>	
Private dwellings - owner-occupied	23	61%	41	66%
Private dwellings - rented	2	5%	10	16%
Farm-houses	3	8%	-	-
Tied agricultural dwellings	10	26%	11	18%
Totals approved 1969	38		62	

- (i) Improvement (Discretionary) Grants. 40 new applications were received, and with 10 brought forward from 1968, 38 were approved, 3 refused, 6 withdrawn and 3 carried forward to be dealt with in 1970. Of those refused and withdrawn 3 subsequently had Standard Grants and 2 were resubmitted and had Discretionary Grants approved.

The 38 approved grants were for a total of £18,254 (an average of £480 - £133 higher than the average for 1968). Discretionary grants approved to the end of 1969 totalled 725 to a total value of £200,699.

(ii) Standard Grants. 63 new applications were received, and with 2 brought forward, 62 were approved, 2 withdrawn and subsequently replaced by Discretionary Grants, and 1 refused. The 62 approved grants covered the provision of the following amenities:-

<u>Baths.</u>	<u>Wash-basins.</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>	<u>Hot-water Supplies.</u>	<u>Food Stores *</u>	<u>Sinks *</u>
61	61	61	62	11	11

* (NOTE: The 1969 Housing Act substituted the provision of a sink for a food store in the list of standard amenities to be grant aided).

52 Standard Grants were certified for payment to a total value of £9,458. 11. 1. averaging £181. 17. 11. per grant - about £6. higher than the average for 1968. The total number of these grants paid up to the end of 1969 was 573 to a total value of £79,778.

I cannot leave the subject of Housing Improvement Grants without some comment on the Council's recent decision to transfer the administrative responsibility of dealing with grant applications to the Engineer and Surveyor. All recent legislation on Housing - and the accompanying Ministry circulars - stresses the need for slum clearance and the improvement of old better type houses to go forward hand-in-hand; whilst this does not specifically imply that the responsibility of both these aspects of the housing problem should be the responsibility of the same officer or department, surely it is sound common sense that they should be. Otherwise, consider how difficult a position the Public Health Inspector is in when discussing the reconditioning of a sub-standard dwelling with the owner, not to be able to advise on the possibility of a grant towards part of the cost. Furthermore, how puzzling and frustrating for the owner to have to seek the advice of two officers on what to him is one and the same job. I would go further and say that the Public Health Inspector is specially trained and qualified to advise on the reconditioning and improvement of existing dwellings and has intimate knowledge of the particular difficulties which frequently arise in dealing with various building materials inherent to the district.

Since the first improvement grant was approved in 1953, well over 1,400 applications have been dealt with, involving grants to a value of over a quarter million pounds. This is an achievement which must compare very favourably with any other rural district of similar size and character, and one of which the Council can be very proud. But, I would suggest that it is an achievement brought about in no small measure by the enthusiasm and interest of the Public Health Department staff in persuading owners to improve dwellings with improvement grant aid, and it seems scant recognition of these efforts now to transfer the work to another Department. Further consideration of this important decision could be in the best interests of the Council and the public we serve.

(e) Overcrowding.

At the end of 1968, there were no cases of statutory overcrowding on the Council's register, but 5 cases of overcrowding on the unofficial 'bedroom standard'. During the year only one additional case of 'bedroom standard' overcrowding came to our notice, and one case was abated leaving 5 still on the register at the end of the year. Although it is not possible to categorically state that every case of overcrowding in the District is known to the Department, I think it fair to state the position as we know it is not a very serious one.

(f) Cleanliness of Dwellings.

As previously, I can report that in general the dwellings throughout the District are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. In only 4 cases during 1969 was it found necessary to make special visits regarding cleanliness - all involving elderly female occupants. Two at Council bungalows did not warrant special action, but are being kept under observation.. In the other two cases, the occupants were considered to be unable to maintain their homes in a sanitary condition by reason of physical incapacity or old age and both removed to homes for the elderly - one voluntarily and one following formal action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

(g) Movable Dwellings - Caravans.

At the end of 1968 there were 62 caravans in residential use on individual sites throughout the District; during 1969 twelve of these were removed, but 14 new ones were approved, leaving 64 in use at the end of the year. All the sites are visited and inspected at regular intervals and no case arose during the year where breaches of the site licence conditions or Town Planning approvals were observed.

Regular inspections were also made at the two holiday caravan sites at Wortwell, which were found to be maintained and conducted up to the same good standard as previously reported.

(h) Common Lodging Houses.

As previously, I must formally report that there are none of these premises in use in the District.

PART II - WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Supplies.

100 samples of mains water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. 47 of these were routine check samples from existing mains and all except one were reported as satisfactory; the one unsatisfactory sample from a standtap, which I concluded was 'dirty' as a satisfactory sample was subsequently obtained after sterilisation. 27 samples were from new mains extensions on new housing sites, and all but five gave satisfactory results; in these cases the mains were given further flushing and sterilising treatment until good results were obtained. Following up the practice commenced in 1968, 25 samples were taken of raw water from the bores at Rushall waterworks and all gave excellent results. The one other sample was taken direct from the new water tower at Long Stratton and was reported as satisfactory.

NOTE: Full information on the year's working of the water undertaking in the District is contained in the Annual Report of the Engineer and Surveyor.

(b) Private Supplies.

12 bacteriological samples of water were taken from 7 private wells and only one of these gave two consecutive good results. One of the 'unsafe' supplies was at a vacant cottage subject to a statutory undertaking and in the other five cases the question of providing a satisfactory alternative supply was still outstanding at the end of the year. One sample from a private bore also proved unsatisfactory and the provision of a mains supply was in hand at the year's end. All the users of these unsatisfactory supplies are warned to boil water before it is used for human consumption.

One case arose in 1969 of a dwelling being without a satisfactory water supply and informal action to have one provided having failed, it was resolved to regard the dwelling as unfit and to take formal action under Sections 16/17 of the Housing Act 1957, but before such action could be taken the owner took steps to have a mains supply connected.

PART III - SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES & PREMISES.

(a) Meat Inspection.

The same five slaughterhouses were licensed for use in 1969, but that at Hempnall (previously operated by the late W. Ladbrooke and subsequently licensed to Mr. R. A. Allen) was not used for slaughtering at all, and that at Long Stratton (Mr. J. G. Cracknell) ceased to be used from about mid-year. The increase in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected - almost 7,000 (20%) - is entirely due to the increased throughput of pigs at J. H. Lambert's slaughterhouse at Earsham, and in fact the figures for cattle, calves and sheep are down on the previous year.

However, I am pleased to be able to report that meat inspection generally worked quite smoothly without any appreciable amount of overtime being necessary. Once again, I must express appreciation and thanks to the two private firms of veterinary surgeons who have continued to carry out meat inspection at week-ends and other times of staff shortage - sometimes at rather short notice.

Apart from our own regular visits for meat inspection, each of the premises in use are inspected regularly with a veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and as in previous years only minor infringements of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) and (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations were found, and quickly remedied after informal action.

The following table shows the number of the various types of animals slaughtered, inspected and the incidence of diseases and/or abnormalities found:-

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1375	89	1173	1185	38200	42022
Number inspected (percentage)	1375 100%	89 100%	1173 100%	1185 100%	38200 100%	42022 100%
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses	-	3	12	-	92	107
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	213	25	19	16	2939	3212
Percentage of number inspected affected	15.5	31.4	2.7	1.4	7.1	7.5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	330	331
Percentage of number inspected affected	0.07	-	-	-	0.9	0.75
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: No horses were slaughtered.

The incidence of disease again shows only minor variations from last year, and in fact the percentage of animals affected by diseases or abnormalities other than T.B. and C.Bovis is exactly the same as in 1968 - 7.5%. Roughly the same number of pigs were found to be affected by T.B. but in view of the higher number slaughtered, the percentage affected is correspondingly reduced. The one case of a bovine judged to be affected by T.B. (a steer's head) was referred to the local laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food for confirmation, but after tests by animal inoculation the results were inconclusive.

The total number of whole carcasses condemned is 43 lower than the previous year, and is probably accounted for by the reduced number of 'casualties' being dealt with. In general, I can again confirm that the quality of meat being produced in the District is of a very good standard. Details of the 107 whole carcasses condemned with the reasons for condemnation were as follows:-

2 cows	... septic pericarditis.	5 pigs	... septic peritonitis.
1 cow	... poorness/emaciation.	3 pigs	... general & extensive
6 calves	... umbilical pyaemia.	3 pigs	... uraemia. (bruising.
3 calves	... immature.	3 pigs	... septic pleurisy.
1 calf	... fevered.	2 pigs	... leukaemia.
1 calf	... septic pneumonia.	2 pigs	... septic metritis.
1 calf	... septicaemia.	2 pigs	... lymphosarcoma.
29 pigs	... pyaemia.	1 pig	... acute erysipelas.
18 pigs	... moribund.	1 pig	... septic arthritis.
14 pigs	... septicaemia.	1 pig	... jaundice.
7 pigs	... poorness/emaciation.	1 pig	... septic pericarditis.

The total estimated weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption was 14 tons 1³ cwt - nearly a ton less than in 1968, which continues to be removed and processed by approved private firms. New Regulations affecting the transport and treatment of condemned meat came into force on November 1st. 1969 - these were made known to the slaughterhouse operators and firms concerned and appropriate measures taken to comply, but there is no question of doubt that the requirements may well prove exceedingly difficult to enforce.

The Council's income from meat inspection charges was £1,683. 17. 3d. - an increase of £181 over the previous year.

Slaughter of Animals Act - Slaughterman's Licences.

22 licences were renewed in January and four new ones issued during the year; the latter were all to young men being licensed for the first time and their licences were made provisional on their only using stunning equipment in the presence of a fully licensed slaughterman. All licensed slaughtermen operating at slaughterhouses within the District are kept under regular observation and no irregularities were encountered.

(b) Inspection of Other Foods.

During the year only two complaints were received from members of the public regarding alleged unfit food, and both concerned meat pies. In the first case, a steak and kidney pie was delivered by a baker's roundsman and the meat content was found to be mouldy; our investigations indicated that due to negligence the pie was over a week old before sale and the sellers were prosecuted for sale of unfit food. A fine of £25 was imposed with £10.10s. costs. In the second case, a frozen chicken pie was found to contain what appeared to be a piece of black plastic material amongst the meat content and was referred to the Norfolk County Weights and Measures Department for further investigation and I understand that the question of legal proceedings was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Food inspected in the course of routine inspections of food premises again indicated that in general the standard of quality and condition of freshness is very good, and no doubtful or unfit food was encountered.

On only three occasions were requests received to inspect food suspected of being unfit, resulting in condemnation certificates being issued for the following:-

- 60 small wrapped ice-creams - due to breakdown of refrigerator cabinet.
- 1 x 6½lb. tin of processed peas - blown tin.
- 1 x 7 lb. tin of pressed brisket - blown tin.

2,320 pigeons were also condemned and destroyed from a game processing premises, by reason of the batch containing an unidentifiable number of birds suspected of being poisoned - full details of this incident were reported by the Medical Officer to the September meeting of the Public Health Committee.

(c) Food Premises.

The following table gives the number of the various types of food handling premises (other than slaughterhouses and dairies), in use at the end of 1969 (with comparable figures for the previous year in brackets) :-

General food shops (inc. 2 stalls).....	87	(90)
Butcher's shops.....	14	(15)
Fish shops (inc. fried fish & chip shops).....	4	(4)
Fish stalls.....	3	(3)
Restaurants, cafes, etc.....	11	(11)
Bakeries.....	4	(4)
Public Houses.....	52	(57)
Poultry processing premises.....	6	(6)
Others (mineral water factory, factory canteen & wholesale meat store).....	3	(3)

The figures show only minor variations from the previous year, and the only item that calls for comment is the closure of yet another five public houses.

370 routine inspections indicated that these premises are reasonably well maintained and conducted, and that food handling methods, by no means yet perfect, are improving all the time. In only five cases was it found necessary to write informal letters requesting attention to minor infringements of the Regulations at food shops etc. and in three cases relating to food delivery vans. All were complied with without further formal action being necessary.

The same six poultry processing premises continued in use during 1969, and the 53 routine visits revealed that they continue to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. The largest plant at Harleston was enlarged during the year and the throughput increased to an average of 60,000 ten-week broilers per week, with a rejection rate of just over 1%. The three smaller premises handle between 500 and 5,000 per week - broilers, capons and over-year hens, but do not eviscerate, with a very low rejection rate. The fifth premises was only used for Christmas trade when about 6,000 - mainly geese, turkeys and capons were dealt with. The other premises, not strictly a poultry processing plant, deals entirely in game and its activities are, therefore, seasonal; in the appropriate seasons about 20,000 wood pigeons, 10,000 pheasants, 1,000 mallard, 1,000 partridges, 700 hares, 700 wild rabbits, and odd quantities of deer, grouse, teal, woodcock etc. per week are handled. So far as the inspection of poultry is concerned, I can only repeat my previous remarks that with the present staff available and the time that would be taken up, this is simply not a practicable possibility and for the time being must be left in the hands of the trade. During the year two series of swabs were taken at the largest plant to judge the hygienic efficiency of handling and treatment before packaging and freezing, and I am pleased to say that the results were very good.

(d) Retail Distribution of Milk.

Two additional persons were registered as retail distributors of milk, bringing the total to twenty on the register at the end of the year. Three producer retailers also distribute milk in the District. Five dairies or milk stores continued in use. All of these, together with those retailers operating from premises outside the District, were kept under routine observation and inspection and only minor infringements of the appropriate Regulations were found. These mainly concerned the use of private cars for retailing milk, without the retailer's name and address being inscribed on the vehicle.

Two complaints were received regarding foreign matter being found in bottled milk, and both referred to the Norfolk County Council which has statutory control over the bottling plant concerned.

(e) Ice-Cream.

Two more shops were registered for the sale of ice-cream, and with three having ceased, it left 68 on the register at the end of the year - including one manufacturer. No cause for complaint was found in any of the premises inspected during the year.

Twelve samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and all reported as Grade I (excellent).

PART IV - PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Despite difficulties arising from the loss of vehicle in the accident of December 1968, staff shortage and tipping problems, the refuse collection and disposal service continued throughout 1969 on the same lines as previously without any serious hitch. However, the urbanisation of some of the larger villages has made it abundantly clear that a fortnightly service is unlikely to meet the need much longer and the question of making this a weekly service throughout the District was considered by the Public Health Committee twice during the year. In June the decision was to defer consideration for six months but in December it was agreed to commence the weekly collection as from April 1st. 1971. I regret that my term of office will not enable me to completely organise and see the improved service in operation, but it is something to know that the decision has been made.

The vehicle damaged in the accident was written off as beyond economic repair and although a new one was ordered almost straightaway, it was not delivered until early June; meanwhile we had to use the discarded Ford side-loader, which in spite of its dilapidated condition saw us through till the new vehicle arrived. The two larger Karrier fore-and-aft tippers - now 5 and 6 years old - gave good service throughout the year. The question of servicing these vehicles is becoming something of a problem as the servicing garages find it difficult to obtain labour willing to work on Saturdays, and the time cannot be far distant when the Council may have to consider the setting up of its own servicing arrangements.

Due to the temporary loss of the two men injured in the accident, it became necessary to appoint a temporary replacement and W. Knights started work on January 20th. and was kept on throughout the year; O. Brighton, one of the injured men recovered and commenced work in March but after 6 weeks, was off again until September, worked another 9 weeks, and was then off until the end of the year. C. Reynolds, the other injured man, did not come back to duty until August but apart from two weeks in September, continued until the end of the year. Due to Brighton's absence it became necessary to appoint a second temporary man, and G. Townsend was employed for 11 weeks from August to October. The only other change of staff was that G. Voizey was appointed as attendant on the cesspool emptier in January to replace W. Peck, who resigned late in December 1968. The total number of days lost by the workmen through sickness, injury etc. was 422 (or 12 1/2% of the total possible) but leaving out the time lost by the two injured men (348 days) the percentage is only 2 1/2% - slightly lower than the percentage figures for the past few years. I must, once again, record that I consider that our cleansing staff do a thoroughly unpleasant job in a hardworking and conscientious manner, which is appreciated with thanks.

Disposal of refuse continued at the three tips in use at the end of 1968 - in the Parishes of Needham, Shelton and Forncett, and although with a reduced staff it was at times difficult to give the tips the attention they require, no serious difficulties arose and no complaints received. However, I feel duty bound to point out that each of these tips had a very limited life by the end of 1969 - particularly Forncett - and the future outlook in the Northern half of the District is rather bleak. Fortunately - so far as the Southern part is concerned - the preliminary discussions with Hartismere R.D.C. which started in 1968, were concluded with an agreement to dispose of some of our refuse at their new pulverising plant at Brome, and this arrangement was due to commence early in 1970.

The Working Party comprising representatives of 15 authorities around Norwich to study their joint refuse disposal problem and a solution thereto, produced its report in November, and judging by the outcome of a subsequent meeting between elected representatives and officers of the authorities concerned no practical result of the deliberations seems likely to emerge in the immediate future.

(b) Emptying of Earth Closet Pails.

There were no changes in this service during the year - weekly collections continuing in the following parishes:- Alburgh, Harleston, Brockdish, Starston, the Pulhams and Wortwell. In those parishes recently provided with mains drainage the number of premises requiring the service continues to decrease, and it is anticipated that, in the very near future the whole of this work can be done on one day per week, instead of two.

The practice of disposing of earth closet pail contents on prepared straw 'pans' at an isolated site at Thorpe Abbotts continued quite satisfactorily, without any cause for complaint.

(c) Emptying of Septic Tanks, etc.

In addition to the work mentioned in the previous section, the two men on the Dennis 800 gallon cesspool emptier, collected the following number of loads from septic tanks etc. at various premises throughout the District:-

<u>Type of Premises.</u>	<u>No. of loads collected.</u>
Council sewage works & septic tanks	150
Private septic tanks.....	885
Septic tanks at schools, school canteens etc.....	37
	1,072

The total number of loads is just under 100 up on the figure for 1968, and indicates a good years work for the men concerned. Disposal of tank contents on to suitable agricultural land continued as previously, and judging by the absence of complaints must be regarded as making the best of a difficult job. However, I cannot let the occasion pass without again expressing thanks and appreciation to farmers who co-operate by making their land available for this purpose.

PART V - RODENT CONTROL.

A summary of the work carried out by the rat-catcher, J. H. Bartram, on the control of rats and mice is shown in the following table:-

	Council premises (Tips, S/Wks.etc)	Private dwellings (inc.CHs)	Agricultural premises	Other premises	Total
No. of notifications of infestations received.					
Rats	2	240	32	41	315
Mice	1	22	-	3	26
No. of survey visits as a matter of routine.	13	1106	36	46	1201
No. of treatments carried out at infested premises:-					
(a) Rats ... (i) major	22	60	7	7	96
(ii) minor	82	581	21	18	702
(b) Mice ... (i) major	-	6	-	-	6
(ii) minor	-	31	1	3	35
No. of dead bodies picked up:					
Rats	416	567	171	60	1214
Mice	-	47	7	4	58

Although the number of requests for treatment is over 100 up on the previous year, with a consequent increase in the number of treatments carried out, the number of dead bodies picked up is appreciably down on the previous year. This appears to indicate that in general 1969 was not a really bad rat year, but that occupiers of all types of premises now tend to take action more promptly, so that the more serious type of rat infestations are not permitted to arise. The increase in the number of premises treated and time lost by the rat-catcher through sickness (32½ days) accounts for a reduction in the number of premises surveyed by him as a matter of routine.

Once again, all the main sewerage systems were test-baited during the summer, and again showed no evidence of rat infestation.

Other pest infestations dealt with by the rat-catcher were six premises for moles, three for bats, two for flies in roof spaces, and the destruction of 22 wasps' nests, one hornets' nest and one bees' nest. As previously he also assisted with refuse tip control and as attendant on the cesspool emptier in emergencies.

PART VI - PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT.

(a) Factories Act 1961.

The following table shows the number of factories in use in the District at the end of the year, the number of inspections made and action taken as a result thereof :-

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities. (No power used).	3	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Power used).	86*	62	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises).	3**	3+	-	-
Totals	92	75	3	-

NOTES:- * This figure includes 14 butcher's shops, where power operated sausage or mincing machines are in use, which are visited regularly under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

** These are the slaughterhouses, also visited regularly for meat inspection throughout the year.

The numbers of premises and inspections are a trifle down (2 and 1 respectively) on 1968. Once again in general these premises are found to be maintained and conducted satisfactorily, and all three cases where informal action was taken it applied to sub-standard sanitary accommodation for the employees, which was promptly attended to without need for formal action.

143 inspections were also recorded regarding the provision of temporary sanitary accommodation of building sites etc. for workmen, and only verbal informal action found necessary to rectify any faults found.

39 outworkers were notified during the year - as previously, the majority of these are employed by the same firm, making sheepskin gloves etc. In the course of inspections carried out no cause for criticism or complaint of the working conditions was found.

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

The following table shows the number of the various types of premises which the scope of this Act on the Council's register at the end of the year, with the number of persons employed therein:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number Registered.</u>	<u>Total No. of Employees.</u>
Offices.....	11	84
Retail shops.....	53	165
Wholesale shops/warehouses.....	2	12
Catering establishments.....	6	28
Fuel storage depots.....	3	7
	<u>75</u>	<u>296</u>
		(190 females 106 males).

140 routine inspections of these premises were made, but in only 6 cases was it found necessary to make written informal requests to rectify minor infringements of the Act; all were given prompt attention without need for further action.

No accidents in these premises were notified during the year.

(c) Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.

As promised in my last report, more attention was given during 1969 to the provision of sanitary accommodation for agricultural workers both at farms and for fruit pickers and similar casual labour in the fields. 46 routine inspections were made, but only in one case was it found necessary to make written request for the provision of a toilet at a farm, which was subsequently complied with. In all other cases, sanitary arrangements were provided - the standard varies somewhat, and in many cases there is evidence that the persons for whom they are provided misuse them.

PART VII - OTHER MATTERS.

(a) Public Health Act - Nuisances, etc.

426 inspections (195 primary and 231 re-visits) were carried out in connection with complaints of public health nuisances. Only relatively few of these warranted other than verbal informal action taken on the site, and 36 informal letters were sent requesting abatement of nuisances found. Only one case arose where I found it necessary to seek authority for the service of formal notices, which was still outstanding at the end of the year.

36 visits were made in connection with dangerous and/or derelict buildings, necessitating the writing of 5 letters requesting the repair or demolition of the structures in question. In one case, repeated informal action having failed, application was made to a Magistrates Court for an order, which was granted with costs, and the dangerous roadside building subsequently demolished.

8 informal letters were also sent requesting action in connection with choked or defective drainage, and all complied with without further action being necessary.

Following receipt of a Ministry Circular regarding means of escape in case of fire of certain types of establishments of more than two storeys, nine visits were made to premises to which Sec.60 of the 1936 Act applies, with a representative of the Norfolk County Fire Service. As a result three informal letters were sent requesting works to be carried out and each case was still outstanding but receiving attention at the year's end.

(b) Public Health Act 1936, Sec.47 - Earth Closet Conversion Grants.

14 new applications for grant (involving 15 toilets) were received and approved. Of those previously approved in principle, I reported that the work of providing 25 new W.Cs. had been satisfactorily completed and grants to a total value of £566 were paid. Average grant £22.13s.0d. - nearly £2 more than the 1968 average.

(c) Miscellaneous Licences etc.

Licences issued during the year were as follows, with the figures for 1968 in brackets:-

Petroleum Storage	104	(102)
Animal Boarding Establishments.....	4	(4)
Game Dealers	11	(10)

59 routine inspections of premises used for the storage of petroleum, revealed only minor infringements of the licence conditions in two cases, which were rectified following informal letters being sent. 10 visits to the animal boarding establishments confirmed our previous findings that they are conducted and maintained in accordance with licence conditions. The two additional premises approved for licensing in 1968, had still not been completed and brought into use by the end of 1969.

One of the persons previously licensed under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order to treat waste food for animal feeding ceased to operate during the year, leaving 6 licences in force at the end of the year. The issue of a new licence was authorised, but not issued by the end of the year as the necessary boiling equipment had not been provided on the site. In the course of an inspection at one of the largest plants with a Ministry veterinary officer, it was found that the arrangements for handling the untreated waste food were not entirely satisfactory, and informal action was taken to have the plant reorganised; the necessary work was still in progress at the end of the year.

There were no changes to the Register of Scrap Metal Dealers during the year - the same 8 re-registered in 1968 continued to operate.

(d) Town Planning and Building Control.

1037 applications for approval of plans were received - just 3 more than the record high figure of 1968. Of these 596 required consideration under the Town and Country Planning Acts (35 fewer than in 1968). These figures in themselves give little indication of the ever increasing amount of work involved, as a single plan can mean anything from a new garage and vehicular access to an estate of 80 odd dwellings, and the fact that at the end of 1969 there were 318 new private dwellings in course of construction as against just over 200 the year before indicates that so far as new private dwellings are concerned this District did not follow the national trend.

IN CONCLUSION - or may I say finally - I wish to express to members of the Council and the staff my sincere thanks for the courtesy, kindness and co-operation I have always received, not only in 1969, but throughout my 23 years service with the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



February, 1970.

Senior Public Health Inspector
and Building Surveyor.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

The year has brought some remarkable changes in weather. Following the disastrous floods at the latter end of 1968, the year started with heavy snowfalls, particularly in February, and then came a long spell of generally cold, wet and unpleasant weather which extended into early June. During this period serious delays occurred on all building and civil engineering works due to the waterlogged state of so many housing and sewage disposal works sites. However, these delays were largely offset by progress made during the exceptionally fine weather which lasted from July to almost mid-November.

On the 1st April the Water Undertaking was officially transferred to the South Norfolk Water Board, although, in practical terms, it remained very much under the jurisdiction of the Council for the rest of the year as the Board had neither the facilities or the administration to accept responsibility for control. In mid-November the first steps in handing over were taken when the Waterworks Superintendent commenced part-time duties with the Board outside the Depwade District.

The general maintenance work carried out by the Department continued according to pattern and despite the continued financial restrictions imposed by the Government, work connected with the Council's and private capital works did not show any appreciable change from the level set in the previous two or three years.

For the first time in many years it has to be reported that the Council suffered from an outbreak of crime. There were four burglaries between August and the end of the year, two at the small water stores at the Long Stratton water tower site and two at the main stores at the Council Depot. In total stores valued at close on £1,000 were stolen. Security has been improved and a decision was taken to have a new purpose designed store erected at the Depot early in 1970.

I am most grateful to my staff, both indoor and outdoor, for the excellent support and co-operation they have given me since my arrival in September and also to the Members of the Council and staff of other Departments, particularly the Clerk and Treasurer, for all the help and advice I have received.

H O U S I N G

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

(1) House Improvements:

At the end of the year work had been completed or was in progress on all sites in the present programme with the exception of Bungay Road, Brockdish where sewerage facilities were not to hand and Lohr Bungalows, Alburgh. This means that there are now only 20 pre-war dwellings to be modernised. Work on the improvement of these dwellings will almost certainly be commenced during 1970.

(2) New Dwellings:

The 1969 programme comprised 50 two-bedroomed aged persons bungalows to be built on eight sites:- Aslacton (4), Bressingham (6), Gissing (4), Great Moulton (3), Long Stratton (8), Pulham Market (6), Pulham St. Mary (6) and Wortwell (13).

In December tenders were received and under consideration for six of these sites; Ministry approval was awaited for site works costs for Pulham Market and design work on a revised scheme for Wortwell was well under way.

For the first time in many years the general lack of work in the building trade was very noticeable and this reflected in the number of Contractors submitting tenders for the Council's work - a total of 87 for the six contracts.

The nine two-bedroomed bungalows at Paddock Road, Harleston forming part of the 1968 programme were completed in September and at the end of the year the six bungalows at Francis Road, Long Stratton were well on the way to completion. The year also saw the end of the 1967 bungalow programme.

In November the first one-bedroomed bungalows were completed on the Grouped Homes Scheme at Mendham Close, Harleston and by the end of the year a total of six had been handed over. In addition the two associated two-bedroomed bungalows and Warden's flat were occupied. The communal block was nearing completion and tidying up and improvements to the roads and footways had commenced. At this point I must express my appreciation to Dr. Ruth Rainey and Mrs. Tavlör for their help with the "domestic" problems and the provision of furnishings, etc.

The final surfacing and tidying up of the site at Ashwellthorpe where plots are being sold to members of the Public was completed during early summer and, in fact, a number of private dwellings were erected and occupied on this site before the end of the year.

(B) MAINTENANCE

The Council has now over 1,600 dwellings to maintain and although the direct labour staff engaged on housing repairs remained unchanged routine repairs were carried out without undue delay or cause for criticism. Once again the weather was very much of a hindrance to external painting early in the year but by the end of December 150 houses had been painted by your own painters, which is an improvement on 1968. Painting Contractors were responsible for painting 165 dwellings and a further 16 dwellings were painted in conjunction with the improvements schemes, making a total of 331 houses painted during the year. The usual statistics are set out in Appendix 2.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The construction of the reinforced concrete water tower at Long Stratton was completed early in the year and this resulted in a noticeable improvement in the supply to the area in and around Long Stratton. The Consultants completed the preparation of their scheme for providing a second rising main to feed the Harleston Tower and work started in September. The Contractor made extremely good progress and at the end of the year main laying was nearing completion.

(B) MAINTENANCE

The waterworks, including the new extension, continued to operate extremely satisfactorily and the 31st December saw the "working transfer" of this side of the Water Undertaking to the South Norfolk Water Board. A very satisfactory service was again given by the distribution side of the undertaking and during the year the number of mains fractures and other emergencies to be dealt with was very much the same as in the previous year. The continued expansion of the District has meant that many extensions to the mains have been provided and this in itself has meant a considerable amount of additional work has had to be carried out by the distribution team.

When taking up my appointment in September, I was, of course, well aware of the fact that the Water Undertaking was due to be transferred to the New Water Board but even so I have many regrets that I shall no longer be responsible for this side of the Council's work. In the few months I have been at Depwade I have found the undertaking to be extremely efficient and a credit to the Council and, if I may say so, to my predecessor, Mr. Berrett.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The rate of activity in this field was not maintained at the 1968 level, but, nevertheless, the Tasburgh and Roydon Sewerage Schemes were completed, and the extensions to Long Stratton and Scole sewage disposal works became operational. In view of the County's priority programme for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes no further progress was made on the Wacton Scheme and Ministry approval to the Brockdish Scheme was also not forthcoming but, perhaps, it would not be amiss if I said that approval for the latter scheme has now been received.

(B) MAINTENANCE

With the increase in the number of sewage disposal works further labour was taken on to cope with the increased routine maintenance work. In spite of this Royal Commission Standards of effluent were not always achieved at all the works. It will be appreciated that it is vital that these standards are maintained and improved upon and therefore stricter control will have to be exercised in the maintenance of the Council's works; sewage samples will be taken more regularly and, where possible, the more simple tests will be carried out by members of my Department in our own laboratory at Harleston.

I must also draw attention to the difficulties that are being experienced at most of the sewage disposal works (excluding Harleston) in drying sludge by conventional means on drying beds. Apart from the physical problem in getting sludge to dry the system is now somewhat outdated and highly unsatisfactory. I am quite certain that in a comparatively few number of years this, or for that matter, any other Council will not be able to obtain labour to carry out such work as digging sludge. With this in mind greater use is being made of the Coil Filter at the Harleston works by tankering sludge from other works.

OTHER MATTERS

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

The public lavatories at the Harleston car park were completed in February.

The scheme for the provision of a car park and lavatories on the land adjacent to Jubilee House at Long Stratton was not proceeded with but as a temporary expedient part of this land was levelled and hardened out.

The provision of covered accommodation for the Council's vehicles at the Depot, Long Stratton was completed in July and other works to improve the mens' lavatories and to provide a mess room were carried out by the direct labour force as and when time permitted.

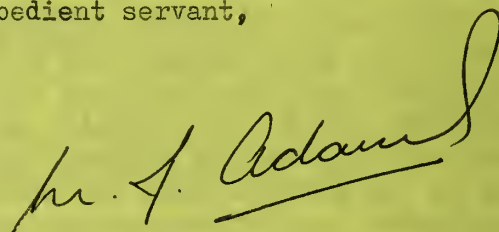
(B) PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

In spite of continued serious financial restrictions and mortgage difficulties building in the private development sector continued at much the same level as in 1968. There is evidence however that the pace slowed somewhat in the last quarter of the year and if there is no noticeable improvement in the financial situation shortly then there will undoubtedly be a reduction in house building in 1970.

Work was undertaken and advice given in respect of 23 private development schemes during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mr. F. Adams', written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

January, 1970.

APPENDIX 1

STAFF CHANGES IN 1969

ARRIVALS - OFFICERS:

28. 7. 69.	MRS. D.A. EDWARDS	CLERK/TYPIST
1. 9. 69.	MR. M.J. ADAMS	ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

DEPARTURES - OFFICERS:

25. 4. 69.	MRS. I.M. CHRISTISON	ENGINEER'S SECRETARY
31. 8. 69.	MR. J.M. BERRETT	ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

ARRIVALS - WORKMEN:

10. 2. 69.	MR. W.J. MOORE	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
10. 2. 69.	MR. B. GARDINER	TEMPORARY SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
23. 6. 69.	MR. R. MEADOWS	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
6.10. 69.	MR. G. KNIVETT	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
6.10. 69.	MR. K.W. GILLMAN	WORKS SUPERINTENDENT
9.10. 69.	MR. B.G. WEBB	SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT

DEPARTURES - WORKMEN:

24. 5. 69.	MR. B. GARDINER	TEMPORARY SEWAGE WORKS ATTENDANT
19. 9. 69.	MR. K.S. DESBOROUGH	WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY HOUSING REPAIRS SECTION

No. of dwellings under repair at 31st December, 1969.....	1,614	(1,578)
Complaints received.....	2,718	(2,628)
Jobbing repairs done	2,731	(2,850)
Electrical complaints received and dealt with	254	(234)
* Dwellings painted externally	150	(139)
Dwellings completely or partially redecorated internally on change of tenancy.....	15	(8)
Routine inspections of Council Dwellings	85	(96)
Vehicle Mileages	JNG 378D	... 4,672
	 SAH 718G	... 7,497
	 726 DNG	... 7,338
	 DNG 422C	... 6,314
	 CCL 833D	... 4,913
	 MVF 280E	... 15,116
	 TAH 987G	... 6,176
	 8342 PW	.. 1,162 53,188 (54,786)

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1968.

- * In addition to the 150 dwellings mentioned above, 16 dwellings were painted by contractors working on improvement schemes and 165 dwellings were painted by direct contract, making a total of 331 dwellings painted during the year.

APPENDIX 3

Average daily quantity of water supplied in thousands of gallons per day.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apri.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
747 (741)	770 (717)	747 (724)	770 (741)	766 (739)	826 (761)	874 (737)	782 (749)	804 (732)	817 (727)	774 (714)	766 (715)

Quantity supplied in 1969.....	287,065,000	(266,498,000)
Increase in 1969	20,567,000	-
Estimated Population in Area of Supply	18,650	(18,350)
Estimated Population supplied in 1969	17,600	(17,250)
Estimated Percentage of Population served	94.3	(94)
Average daily consumption per person	42 ² / ₅ g.p.d.	(42 ¹ / ₃ g.p.d)
Length of Main in Service	212 ¹ / ₄ Miles	(210 ¹ / ₂)
Consumers meters.....	1,300	(1,274)
Dwellings served	6,961	(6,680)
Direct	6,960	(6,210)
By standpipe.....	1	(470)
Applications for supplies granted.....	170	(146)
New tappings made.....	355	(321)
Mains fractures repaired.....	43	(42)
Service pipes repaired.....	30	(41)
Valves, hydrants, standpipes, etc., repaired...	14	(17)

NOTE: The figures in parentheses are those for 1968.

WATER MAINS LAID IN 1969

<u>PARISH</u>	Size of Main (Diam)	Length of Main Yds.	Dwellings Supplied
GREAT MOULTON			
High Green	4"	280	30
EARSHAM			
Station Road	3"	68	Slaughter- house + 1
LONG STRATTON	4"	432)	43
Stratton Chase	3"	246)	
THARSTON			
Chequers Road	4"	586	Industrial Site
LONG STRATTON	4"	172	14
Stratton Park Estate	3"	331	37
ROYDON	4"	589	8
Roydon Court Estate	3"	100	9
DICKLEBURGH	4"	84	4
Rectory Road	3"	107	25

In addition a considerable length of the rising main from Rushall to Harleston had been laid but was not commissioned.

APPENDIX 4

CAPITAL SCHEMES DEALT WITH DURING 1969

1 HOUSING

(A) Improvements

(i) <u>By this Department:</u>	None
(ii) <u>By Consultants:</u>	
(a) Ashwellthorpe, The Turnpike, Fundennhall (14)	Work completed
(b) Brockdish, Bungay Road (16)	Awaiting Sewerage
(c) Earsham, Station Road (6) & Kingsway (2)	Work in Progress
(d) Gissing, Burston Road (8)	Almost Completed
(e) Roydon, Diss Road (9) & Factory Lane (6)	Work in Progress
(f) Shelfanger, Druid's Lane (8)	Work in Progress - difficulties in drainage.
(g) Tasburgh, Church Road (now Grove Lane) (6) Turnpike (2), and Off Turnpike (now Church Road) (8)	Work in Progress
(h) Tharston - Norwich Road and The Street, Hapton (12)	Work in Progress
(i) Winfarthing, Goose Green (8)	Work Completed

(B) New Dwellings (All by this Department)

(i) 1967 Programme for 45 two-bedroomed bungalows:

Long Stratton (11)	Work Completed
Pulham Market (10)	Work Completed

(ii) 1968 Programme for 15 bungalows:

Harleston, Paddock Road (9)	Work Completed
Long Stratton (6)	Work in Progress

(iii) Grouped Homes for the Elderly at Harleston:

20 one-bedroomed and 2 two-bedroomed bungalows	Work in Progress
--	------------------

(iv) 1969 Bungalow Programme:

Aslacton (4)	Tenders Received
Bressingham (6)	Tenders Received
Gissing (4)	Tenders Received
Great Moulton (3)	Tenders Received
Long Stratton (8)	Tenders Received
Pulham Market (6)	Awaiting Final Ministry Approval

(iv) 1969 Bungalow Programme (Continued):

Pulham St. Mary (6)

Tenders Received

Wortwell (13)

Design work in Progress

(C) Site Works for Help to Would-be House Purchasers:

Ashwellthorpe

Work Completed

Pulham Market

Work Completed

2 WATER SUPPLY

(A) By Consultants:

(i) Long Stratton - New Water Tower

Work Completed

(ii) Rushall to Harleston Rising Main

Work in Progress

(B) By this Department:

(i) Gt. Moulton - to serve 30 dwellings

Work Completed

(ii) Earsham - to serve slaughterhouse and one dwelling

Work Completed

(iii) Long Stratton (Dunscote Properties) - to serve 43 dwellings

Work in Progress

(iv) Tharston - Industrial Site - to serve Industrial Site and 2 dwellings

Work in Progress

(v) Long Stratton (Norfolk Garden Estates) - to serve 51 dwellings

Work Completed

(vi) Roydon (Pope Properties) - to serve 17 dwellings

Work Completed

(vii) Dickleburgh (Joseph Moss) - to serve 29 dwellings

Work Completed

Water Mains Laid by Private Developers & taken over by the Council:

Long Stratton, Hall Lane & Bourne Close - Messrs. Mickleburgh & Rutland.

3 SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

(A) By Consultants:

(i) Brockdish - Village Sewerage Scheme

Ministry Approval Received

(ii) Scole - Sewage Disposal Works - Enlargement

Work Completed

(iii) Tasburgh & Hapton - Village Sewerage Scheme

Work Completed

(iv) Wacton and Aslacton - " " "

Awaiting Ministry Approval

(v) Roydon - " " "

Work Completed

3 SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Continued)

(B) By this Department:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (i) Long Stratton - Enlargement of existing Sewage Disposal Works | Work in Progress |
|---|------------------|

4 OTHER MATTERS

(A) CAPITAL WORKS

By this Department:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| (i) Harleston - Public Conveniences on Car Park | Work Completed |
| (ii) Council Depot - Improvements | Work in Progress |
| (iii) Long Stratton - Car Park | Temporary Surface |

(B) Private Development:

Assistance has been given and supervision undertaken in connection with the following private development:-

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| (i) Ashwellthorpe - Lansdale & Falconbridge | |
| (ii) Ashwellthorpe - A. & J. Sissen | |
| (iii) Dickleburgh - Joseph Moss | |
| (iv) Earsham - Harris and Andrews Ltd., | |
| (v) Earsham - V.C. Cooke Ltd. | |
| (vi) Great Moulton - J.D. Construction Ltd., | |
| (vii) Harleston - Harleston Industries Ltd., | |
| (viii) Harleston - Station Road - Halsey Homes | Commenced in November |
| (ix) Hemphall - Wilhunt Properties Ltd., | |
| (x) Long Stratton - Flowerpot Lane - Mickleburgh and Rutland | |
| (xi) Long Stratton - Bourne Close - Mickleburgh and Rutland | Completed in August |
| (xii) Long Stratton - Dunscoate Properties Ltd., | |
| (xiii) Long Stratton - W. Tubby | |
| (xiv) Long Stratton - Norfolk Garden Estates Ltd., | |
| (xv) Roydon - Mills and Leighton | |
| (xvi) Roydon - Pope Properties Ltd., | |
| (xvii) Scole - Bungay Road - Trend Housing Ltd. | Commenced in July |
| (xviii) Tacolneston - Mrs. Jackson | |
| (xix) Tacolneston - Tornest Development Ltd., | |

Private Development (Continued)

- (xx) Tacolneston - Ford and Carter Ltd.,
- (xxi) Tasburgh - Tarrid Builders Ltd.,
- (xxii) Tasburgh - Reynolds and Halliday Ltd.,
- (xxiii) Tharston - Chequer's Road - Reynolds & Laughton - Commenced in
February

